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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
JAN 21 2004 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TECH CENTER 1600/2000 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1616  
Attorney Docket No. 27656/37082

AF  
1616

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Frey, *et al.* ) I hereby certify that this paper is being  
Application No.: 09/762,871 ) deposited with the United States Postal  
Filed: February 14, 2001 ) Service as First Class mail, postage prepaid,  
For: Conjugates of DNA Interacting ) in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF,  
Groups with Steroid Hormones for Use as ) January 13, 2004  
Nucleic Acid Transfection Agents )  
Group Art Unit: 1616 )  
Examiner: B. Badio, Ph.D. ) William K. Merkel, Ph.D.  
)

*William K. Merkel*

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to a final Office Action mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 13, 2003, in which various pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement (claims 1, 6-7, 9-11, 17 and 30-33), and under § 112, second paragraph (claims 1, 6-7, 9-11, 17 and 30-33). Claim 14 was subject to objection for depending from a rejected base claim.

In view of the proposed amendments and remarks presented below, which eliminate, or at least reduce, the issues for appeal, Applicants request that the Examiner exercise her discretion and enter the amendment, which should result in withdrawal of the rejections and objection. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

**Amendments to the Specification:** None.

**Amendments to the Claims** are found in the listing of claims beginning on page 2.

**Amendment to the Drawings:** None.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.